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## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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COUNTRY	Hungary	REPORT	
SUBJECT	Explosions at the Chinoiin Factory	DATE DISTR.	10 August 1953
		NO. OF PAGES	1
DATE OF INFO.		REQUIREMENT NO.	RD
PLACE ACQUIRED		REFERENCES	

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This is UNEVALUATED Information

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.  
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- On 22 May 1953 there were two explosions in the section of the Chinoiin Factory which makes "war" gas, under cover of manufacturing aspirins. One described this gas as phosgene.
- The reason for the explosions is said to have been that the aluminum cylinders in which the gas was stored were not changed on the due date laid down by the engineer in charge despite his warning that further delay in changing were to be dangerous if not fatal. It is not known whether the reason for the delay was incompetence or deliberate tactics.
- A leak in one of the cylinders from corrosion allowed a small quantity of the fumes to escape and the first explosion is said to have been due to the mingling of these with those of the sulphuric acid which is also manufactured in this factory. No one was injured in this first explosion.
- While two men in gas masks were sent in to transfer the gas from the remaining cylinders all workers were ordered through microphones to go back to their places. The packing girls were therefore in the basement when the second more severe explosion took place, and formed the bulk of the casualties when the gas seeped down. The number of casualties is said to have been about 62, including two killed, - presumably the two mentioned above.
- The secret of the explosion has been well kept, although a number of people remarked on the peculiar smell of sulphur and the noticeable pall which hung around Ujpest and up and down the Danube for some days afterwards.
- The engineer in charge, an elderly man with a good record, was immediately arrested by the AVH.

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Comment:

The report is felt to be of value since it indicates the nature of current activity at the plant.

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25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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